

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02
IO-13 /066 W
-----005005 301108Z /14

R 291445Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9141
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 3045

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINS PINT ZA
SUBJ: MUNICIPAL WORKERS' STRIKE ENDS

REF: LUSAKA 2983

1. A STRIKE OF CITY COUNCIL WORKERS WHICH BEGAN IN TWO
COPPERBELT TOWNS AND LATER SPREAD TO LUSAKA (REFTEL)
ENDED AUGUST 28 FOLLOWING AGREEMENT THE PREVIOUS DAY BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING AND THE
ZAMBIA UNITED LOCAL AUTHORITY WORKERS UNION (ZULAWU) ON
STANDARDIZATION OF SALARIES AND WORKING CONDITIONS. A
MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES IN KITWE AND CHINGOLA HAD RETURNED
TO WORK ON FRIDAY AUGUST 25 BUT LUSAKA WORKERS STAYED OFF
THE JOB UNTIL THE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY,
UNION AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION WERE PUBLICIZED.

2. DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC.
ZULAWU LEADERS TOLD THE PRESS, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE
SATISFIED WITH THE PROPOSALS AND NEW SALARY SCALES. MINISTER
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOSEPHAT SIYOMUNJI ANNOUNCED THAT THE
SALARIES WOULD BE EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVELY FROM JULY 1, AND
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ASKED WORKERS WHO WOULD BE RECEIVING WAGE INCREASES TO RESPOND BY
INCREASING THEIR PRODUCTIVITY. THE AGREEMENT APPARENTLY DID NOT
COVER ALL AREAS OF DISPUTE BECAUSE BOTH UNION AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS ASKED EMPLOYEES TO AVOID TAKING ACTION OVER ANY AS
YET UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: THIS LAST CAUTIONARY NOTE MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTED

AT THOSE WORKERS WHO WILL NOT BE RECEIVING A RAISE AS A RESULT
OF THE AGREEMENT. THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ZULAWU AND THE
MINISTRY CONCERNED STANDARDIZATION OF WAGES AND NOT A GENERAL
WAGE INCREASE. THIS POINT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN ACROSS
TO MANY OF THE WORKERS WHO WENT ON STRIKE ILLEGALLY AND IN
DEFIANCE OF UNION LEADERS' CALLS TO STAY ON THE JOB. THERE
COULD BE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES AHEAD WHEN MANY LOCAL AUTHORITY
WORKERS DISCOVER THAT THEIR PAYCHECKS HAVE REMAINED THE SAME.
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA03045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0061
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780814/aaaaalap.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6506635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUSAKA 2983
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1592367
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUNICIPAL WORKERS' STRIKE ENDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6506635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014